**Ways to analyze political cartoons**

There are a lot of people out there trying to change our minds. By knowing how they’re doing it, we can learn to make informed decisions.

**Symbolism**- Simple objects, or symbols, can stand for larger concepts or ideas. Have students identify any symbols and what they are intended to represent.

**Exaggeration**- Physical characteristics of people or things may be exaggerated to make a point. Students should look for these exaggerations and why the artist chose to exaggerate these features.

**Labeling**- Sometimes objects or people are labeled to make it obvious what they stand for. When students see labels, ask them to decide why the artist decided to add a label.

**Analogy**- By comparing two different things, cartoonists can help their readers see a different point of view. If students discover an analogy, have them decide what the analogy is comparing and the point the comparison makes.

**Irony**- Irony is the difference between the ways things are and the way things should be or are expected to be. Students should decide if the irony expresses an opinion on the issue.

### ****Questions to ask while analyzing****

1. What point is the cartoonist trying to make?
2. What techniques, such as symbols, words, caricature, exaggeration, and irony, communicate the message?
3. How would the cartoon be different if it had been created by a cartoonist with a different point of view?
4. What conditions might have given rise to this cartoon?
5. What groups might it have appealed to?

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